WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Mining of uranium

1397. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that some organizations and locals are protesting against mining of uranium by Uranium Corporations of India Ltd., in Jharkhand and several other States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main issues of concern expressed are:

(i) Demand for employment to locals

(ii) Alienation of Land

(iii) Perceived Health Hazards.

(c) The following steps have been initiated to address the issues:

(i) Employment is provided to land oustees as per UCIL's R&R policy duly approved by the Board.

(ii) Land is being acquired through concerned State Government Authorities and compensation for the same is being paid as per the rate fixed by them.

(iii) Various Awarness Campaigns are being carried out by UCIL to dispel misconceptions on health hazards. Safety and other aspects of mining are monitored by various Statutory Authorities such as the State Pollution Control Board, Directorate General of Mines Safety and Atomic Energy Regulatory Board.

Production of atomic energy using thorium

†1398. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the technology discovered for producing atomic energy on the basis of use of thorium in the world has been successful;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of electricity likely to be produced by using thorium available in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India has formulated a three stage nuclear power programme to optimally use its

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.